

Beautiful areas around Aruba



Page 8

NFL
SEASON LIVE
AT DOUBLE DOWN
WATCH YOUR FAVORITE TEAM PLAY
SURROUNDED BY THE GOOD TIME,
COLD BEER, AND GREAT FOOD.

DOUBLE DOWN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

**ARUBA
RAY'S
COMEDY**
**LIVE STANDUP
COMEDY**

FOR TICKETS AND INFO:

www.ArubaComedy.com



Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM

Full Service Bar

Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



THE WEST DECK
 ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

WEEKLY SPECIALS
 RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL: 567-2667 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

@THEWESTDECK

MARGARITA MONDAY
 Starting at \$10

TACO TUESDAY
 Beef, Chicken or Shrimp Tacos starting at \$15

WING WEDNESDAY
 By the dozen \$18

Hegseth says he won't publicly release video of boat strike that killed survivors in the Caribbean

By **STEPHEN GROVES, LISA MASCARO and BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday the Pentagon will not publicly release unedited video of a U.S. military strike that killed two survivors of an initial attack on a boat allegedly carrying cocaine in the Caribbean, as questions mounted in Congress about the incident and the overall buildup of U.S. military forces near Venezuela. Hegseth said members of the Armed Services Committee in the House and Senate would have an opportunity this week to review the video, but did not say whether all members of Congress would be allowed to see it as well.

"Of course we're not going to release a top secret, full, unedited video of that to the general public," Hegseth told reporters as he exited a closed-door briefing with senators.

President Donald Trump's Cabinet members overseeing national security were on Capitol Hill on Tuesday to defend a campaign that has killed at least 95 people in 25 known strikes on vessels in international waters in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. Overall, they defended the campaign as a success, saying it has prevented drugs from reaching American shores, and they pushed back on concerns that it is stretching the bounds of lawful warfare.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters the campaign is a "counter-drug mission" that is "focused on dismantling the infrastructure of these terrorist organizations that are operating in our hemi-



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth arrives to brief members of Congress on military strikes near Venezuela, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

sphere, undermining the security of Americans, killing Americans, poisoning Americans."

Lawmakers have been focused on the Sept. 2 attack on two survivors as they sift through the rationale for a broader U.S. military buildup in the region. On the eve of the briefings, the U.S. military said it attacked three more boats believed to have been smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing eight people. **Lawmakers left in the dark about Trump's goal with Venezuela**

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Hegseth had come "empty handed" to the briefing, without the video of the Sept. 2 strike.

"If they can't be transparent on this, how can you trust their transparency on all the other issues swirling about in the Caribbean?" the New York Democrat said.

Senators on both sides of

the aisle said the officials left them in the dark about Trump's goals when it comes to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro or sending U.S. forces directly to the South American nation.

"I want to address the question, is it the goal to take him out? If it's not the goal to take him out, you're making a mistake," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who defended the legality of the campaign and said he wanted to see Maduro removed from power.

The U.S. has deployed warships, flown fighter jets near Venezuelan airspace and seized an oil tanker as part of its campaign against Maduro, who has insisted the real purpose of the U.S. military operations is to force him from office. Maduro said on a weekly state television show Monday that his government still does not know the whereabouts of the tanker's crew.

He criticized the United Nations for not speaking out against what he described as an "act of piracy" against "a private ship carrying Venezuelan oil." Trump's Republican administration has not sought any authorization from Congress for action against Venezuela.

The go-it-alone approach, experts say, has led to problematic military actions, none more so than the strike that killed two people who had climbed on top of part of a boat that had been partially destroyed in an initial attack. "If it's not a war against Venezuela, then we're using armed force against civilians who are just committing crimes," said John Yoo, a Berkeley Law professor who helped craft the George W. Bush administration's legal arguments and justification for aggressive interrogation after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. "Then this question, this

worry, becomes really pronounced. You know, you're shooting civilians. There's no military purpose for it."

Yet for the first several months, Congress received little more than a trickle of information about why or how the U.S. military was conducting the operations. At times, lawmakers have learned of strikes from social media after the Pentagon posted videos of boats bursting into flames.

Hegseth now faces language included in an annual military policy bill that threatens to withhold a quarter of his travel budget if the Pentagon does not provide unedited video of the strikes to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services.

The demand for release of video footage

For some, the controversy over the footage demonstrates the flawed rationale behind the entire campaign.

"The American public ought to see it.

I think shooting unarmed people floundering in the water, clinging to wreckage, is not who we are as a people," said Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican who has been an outspoken critic of the campaign.

But senators were told the Trump administration won't release all of the Sept. 2 attack footage because it would reveal U.S. military practices on intelligence gathering, said Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. She said the reasoning ignores that the military has already released footage of the initial attack.

"They just don't want to reveal the part that suggests war crimes," she said. □

States sue Trump administration again over billions in withheld electric vehicle charging funds

By ALEXA ST. JOHN

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Sixteen states and the District of Columbia are suing President Donald Trump's administration for what they say is the unlawful withholding of over \$2 billion dollars in funding for two electric vehicle charging programs, according to a federal lawsuit announced Tuesday.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington is the latest legal battle that several states are pursuing over funding for EV charging infrastructure that they say was obligated to them by Congress under former President Joe Biden, but that the Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are "impounding."

"The Trump Administration's illegal attempt to stop funding for electric vehicle infrastructure must come to an end," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a release. "This is just another reckless attempt that will stall the fight against air pollution and climate change, slow innovation, thwart green job creation, and leave communities without access to clean, affordable transportation."

The Department of Transportation did not immediately respond to request for comment.

The Trump administration in February ordered states to halt spending money for EV charging that was allocated in the bipartisan infrastructure law passed under the previous administration.

Several states filed a lawsuit in May against the administration for withholding the funding from the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program for a nationwide charging buildout.

A federal judge later ordered the administration to release much of the funding for chargers in more than a dozen states.



Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy speaks during a news conference at the Department of Transportation in Washington, Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

Tuesday's separate lawsuit addresses the withholding of funding obligations for two other programs: \$1.8 billion for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant program, as well as about \$350 million in Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator money.

Tuesday's lawsuit is led by attorneys general from California and Colorado, joined by the attorneys general of Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia, and the governor of Pennsylvania.

The Trump administration has been hostile to EVs and has dismantled several policies friendly to cleaner cars and trucks that were put in place under Biden, in favor of policies that instead align with Trump's oil and gas industry agenda. Once in office a second time, President Trump immediately ordered an end to what he has called Biden's "EV mandate." While Biden targeted for half of new vehicle sales in the U.S. to be electric by 2030, policies did not force American consumers to buy or automakers to sell electric vehicles. Biden did set stringent tail-

pipe emissions and fuel economy rules in an effort to encourage more widespread EV uptake, as the auto industry would have had to meet both sets of requirements with a greater number of EVs in their sales mix.

Under the Biden administration, consumers could also receive up to \$7,500 in tax incentives off the price of an EV purchase.

The Trump administration has proposed rolling back both tailpipe rules and the gas mileage standards, cut the fines to automakers for not meeting those standards, and eliminated the EV credits. □

WACKY WAHOO'S

Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added to your bill.



We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.

Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.
For more information call +297-586.7333

Be aware of scams on social media!

Don't click on sponsored ads that are using Aruba Today's likeness. Visit only our official Facebook Page, Aruba Today News or our website, www.arubatoday.com.

If you encounter any problems, we are here to help: news@arubatoday.com



Muslim rights group sues Florida Gov. DeSantis over 'foreign terrorist' label



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks during a news conference, Aug. 12, 2025, in Tampa, Fla. Associated Press

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A leading Muslim civil rights group in the U.S. has sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis over his order designating it and another organization as a "foreign terrorist organization," saying the directive was unconstitutional. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, known as CAIR, has more than 20 chapters across the United States and its work involves legal actions, advocacy and education outreach. The lawsuit was filed late Monday by the CAIR-Foundation and CAIR-Florida, its affiliate in the state. The suit asked a federal judge in Tallahassee to declare DeSantis' order unlawful and unconstitutional and prevent it from being enforced.

"He has usurped the exclusive authority of the federal government to identify and designate terrorist organi-

zations by baselessly declaring CAIR a terrorist organization," the lawsuit says. DeSantis' order was among a series of recent actions or statements made by Republican elected officials which target U.S. Muslims or their groups.

U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., on Sunday posted on social media that "Islam is not a religion. It's a cult." A day later, CAIR designated Tuberville, who is running for Alabama governor, as an anti-Muslim extremist for his "increasingly hateful and dangerous attacks on Alabama Muslims." The group said it was the first time it had given a U.S. senator that designation. Tuberville responded on social media that it was a "badge of honor." When asked Tuesday about his statements, Tuberville spokesman Mallory Jaspers repeated what Tuberville had said.

U.S. Rep. Randy Fine, R-

Fla., also posted Monday on social media about his support for "a Muslim travel ban, radical deportations of all mainstream Muslim legal and illegal immigrants, and citizenship revocations wherever possible."

"Mainstream Muslims have declared war on us. The least we can do is kick them the hell out of America," Fine wrote.

Anti-Muslim bias has persisted in different forms since Sept. 11, 2001, and there's been a rise in Islamophobia during more than two years of war in Gaza. During a news conference about the Florida lawsuit, Charles Swift, a lawyer for the Muslim Legal Fund of America, called the elected officials' statements dangerous and bigoted. "The Constitution protects people's rights to be bigoted, not the government's rights," said Swift, whose group is one of the legal organizations representing CAIR. □



President Donald Trump speaks during a Mexican Border Defense Medal presentation in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, in Washington. Associated Press

Trump expands travel ban, adding 5 more countries and imposing new limits on others

By **REBECCA SANTANA**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is expanding its travel ban to include five more countries and impose new limits on others.

This move Tuesday is part of ongoing efforts to tighten U.S. entry standards for travel and immigration. The decision follows the arrest of an Afghan national suspect in the shooting of two National Guard troops over Thanksgiving weekend.

In June, President Donald Trump announced that citizens of 12 countries would be banned from visiting the United States and those from seven others would face restrictions. The decision resurrected a hallmark policy of his first term.

At the time the ban included Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen and heightened restrictions on visitors from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. On Tuesday, the Republican administration announced it was expanding the list of countries whose citizens are banned from entering the U.S. to Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan and Syria. The administration also fully restricted travel on people with Palestinian-Authority-issued travel documents. An additional 15 countries are also being added to the list of countries facing partial restrictions: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Trump administration said in its announcement of the expanded travel ban that many of the countries from which it was restricting travel had "widespread corruption, fraudulent or unreliable civil documents and criminal records" that made it difficult to vet their citizens for travel to the U.S. □

Sudan tops global humanitarian crisis watchlist for third year as devastating war grips the country

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan topped a watchlist of global humanitarian crises released Tuesday by an international aid group for the third year in a row as a devastating war grips the northeastern African country.

The International Rescue Committee said Sudan was at the top of its annual Emergency Watchlist, which included 20 countries at risk of worsening humanitarian crises in 2026.

The IRC called for scaling up global humanitarian funding, which has shrunk by 50% in the outgoing year and is on track to become the deadliest year for humanitarians.

'A New World Disorder'

The list had the occupied Palestinian territories and South Sudan ranked second and third, respectively, due to debilitating humanitarian conditions. It also included Ethiopia, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon and Ukraine. Syria and Yemen, both riddled with civil wars for over a decade, were also listed.

Though the 20-country list represents just 12% of the world's population, it accounts for 89% of those in need, with 117 million dis-



Sudanese families displaced from El-Fasher reach out as aid workers distribute food supplies at the newly established El-Afadh camp in Al Dabbah, in Sudan's Northern State, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.

placed people, the IRC said. The group expects the listed countries to host more than half of the world's extremely poor by 2029, calling the crises a "New World Disorder" replacing "the post-WWII international system once grounded in rules and rights."

The IRC said many of the conflicts are driven by struggles for power and profit. In Sudan, the group says, the warning parties and their international backers are benefiting from the gold

trade, which has devastating impacts on civilians.

"This year's Watchlist is a testament to misery but also a warning," Miliband said. "The New World Disorder is here, and winds are picking up everywhere. Disorder begets disorder."

The group called for a set of binding actions in response to global crises, including the suspension of U.N. Security Council veto power in cases of mass atrocities. An urgent humanitarian crisis in Sudan

Sudan plunged into chaos in April 2023 when a power struggle between the military and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting, with widespread mass killings and rapes, and ethnically motivated violence. This has amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the U.N. and international rights groups.

The devastating war has killed more than 40,000 people, according to Unit-

ed Nations figures, but aid groups say that is an undercount and the true number could be many times higher. The conflict created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with over 14 million people displaced, disease outbreaks and famine spreading in parts of the country.

"The scale of the crisis in Sudan ... is a signature of this disorder," said David Miliband, President and CEO of the IRC. He called on the international community to take urgent action to stop 2026 from becoming "the most dangerous year yet."

Both the RSF and the military were accused of violating international law over the course of the war. However, most of the atrocities were blamed on the RSF, which the Biden administration said it committed genocide in Darfur. Horrors reported in Darfur The most recent atrocities happened in late October when the Rapid Support Forces took over el-Fasher city, which was the military's last stronghold in the sprawling Darfur region. Witnesses told The Associated Press in Oct. that RSF fighters went house to house, killing civilians and committing sexual assaults in the city. □

Associated Press

Ukraine and 34 other countries approve compensation body for damages from Russia's invasion

By **MOLLY QUELL**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and 34 other countries formally approved plans Tuesday to create a compensation body to pay for damages to Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion, but questions remain about where the money will come from. Zelenskyy told leaders gathered in the Dutch city of The Hague that he hopes for strong international support so "any damage caused by the war can be compensated."

The Council of Europe, the continent's preeminent human rights organization, has facilitated the International Claims Commission, which will allow Ukrainians to seek compensation for "damage, loss or injury" caused by Russia since the full-

scale invasion began in February 2022. The Council of Europe is adamant that Russia must foot the bill, but there is no clear pathway for forcing Moscow to pay. One proposal is to use some of the tens of billions of dollars in frozen Russian assets held in Europe. "The aggressor must pay," Zelenskyy told the Dutch parliament earlier Tuesday. On Monday, he attended peace talks in Berlin with U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Zelenskyy voiced readiness to drop his country's bid to join NATO in exchange for Western security guarantees, but rejected the U.S. push for ceding territory to Russia. "These security guarantees are an opportunity to prevent another wave of Russian aggression," he told journalists. □



Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, right, welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

Gaza families struggle to recover from days of torrential rains that killed 12 people

By **WAFAA SHURAF**

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip

(AP) — Palestinians in Gaza struggled to recover Tuesday from torrential rains that battered the enclave for days, flooding camps for the displaced, collapsing buildings already badly damaged in the two-year war and leaving at least 12 dead, including a two-week-old baby.

The downpour, which dumped more than 150 milliliters (9 inches) of rain on some parts of Gaza over the past week, turned dirt lanes to mud and flooded tents in camps for displaced people.

The Gaza Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, said Tuesday the two-week-old died of hypothermia as a result of the weather. The baby was brought to the hospital a few days ago and was transferred to intensive care but died on Monday. In Gaza City, a man died Tuesday after a home already damaged during Israeli strikes, collapsed because of the heavy rainfall,



Wrapped in a blanket, Raafat Alwan, 32, stands outside his tent with his family in a makeshift camp for displaced Palestinians set up on the beach during a cold morning in Gaza City, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

according to Shifa Hospital. Members of the al-Hosari family said 30 people lived in the building, but just nine were home when it collapsed. The man who was killed was a worker who had come to fix the walls, they said. Five people were injured.

The Health Ministry said the remaining 10 people were killed last week, also from buildings collapsing from the rain and heavy winds. Emergency workers warned people not to congregate in damaged buildings due to concerns of collapse, though so much

of the territory has been reduced to rubble, there are few places to escape the rain. In July, the United Nations Satellite Center estimated that almost 80% of the buildings in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged.

"When we hear the news

that there is a storm, our whole lives change, we start thinking about where to stay, to go, where to put our mattresses and blankets, and where to keep our children safe and warm," said Mohammed Gharableh, a father displaced from the southern city of Rafah.

"During every storm like this, water penetrates our tents, and our mattresses and blankets get soaked," he added.

In Israel, areas near Gaza received between 60 mm to 160 mm (2 to 6 inches) of rain in the past week, according to the Israel Meteorological Service, which in some cases is more than twice the average amount of rain for this time of year.

Aid groups say despite two months of a ceasefire, not enough shelter material has been getting into Gaza to help Palestinians deal with the winter. Recently released Israeli military figures suggest it hasn't met the ceasefire stipulation of allowing 600 trucks of aid into Gaza a day, though Israel disputes that finding. □

Colombia says ELN rebels killed 2 police officers as they protest U.S. military build up

By **MANUEL RUEDA**

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian police said Tuesday that two officers were killed in the southwestern city of Cali in an attack by the National Liberation Army, a rebel group that stepped up attacks against the government this week.

Police said the officers were patrolling a neighborhood on motorcycles when they were hit by a roadside bomb. The officers were taken to a nearby hospital but did not survive their injuries.

The National Liberation Army, also known by its Spanish acronym ELN, launched a 72-hour "armed strike" on Sunday to protest the U.S. military build up in the Caribbean.

During these armed strikes, schools and businesses are forced to close in areas under the group's control, while the rebels step up attacks against government targets. The ELN has not

claimed responsibility for the attack in Cali.

On Monday, Colombia's human rights ombudsman said the group had attacked a police station and a military

base over the weekend, as it launched its armed strike. Those attacks were launched in provinces along Colombia's border with Venezuela and resulted in the death of an ambulance driver.

Colombia's government has been critical of the Trump administration's efforts to pressure Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, including the deployment of U.S. warships, and fighter jets to areas near Venezuela's coast.

Last week, President Gustavo Petro described the Trump administration's seizure of a sanctioned oil tanker off Venezuela's coast as an act of "piracy." But Colombian officials also said Monday that the ELN's protest against U.S. intervention "lacks any

sense whatsoever" because it is targeting rural and urban communities within Colombia.

The ELN is a Marxist group inspired by the Cuban revolution and the group has an estimated 6,000 fighters in Venezuela and Colombia. The ELN has been accused of running illegal mines and drug trafficking routes in both countries and supports Venezuela's de facto leader Maduro.

Petro, who was a member of another rebel group in his youth, has attempted to stage peace talks with the ELN, but negotiations were suspended in January after the group waged a series of attacks on villages in Colombia's Catatumbo region that displaced more than 50,000 people. □



Colombia's President Gustavo Petro speaks at a ceremony marking the ninth anniversary of the signing of a peace deal between the state and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

Associated Press



TOURIST SIM

EXPERIENCE ARUBA LIKE NO OTHER

Data	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
SETAR min	200	300
Other min	30	60
SMS	50	50
Duration	7 Days	14 Days
Price	\$30	\$50



* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.
* International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

Aruba's kite flying tradition



(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Us-

ing dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of



the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the

more colorful, the better! People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest. In the past few years, kite flying has

become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.

*Mondi: Aruban woods. □

Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make “pan bati”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

- Ingredients:**
- 2 cups of all purpose flour
 - 1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
 - 2 tbsp baking powder
 - 1 1/3 cup of milk
 - 1 pinch of salt
 - 2 tbsp of granulated sugar
 - Oil for cooking

Instructions:
Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and

beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



Caya House
 CayaHouse
 J.E Irausquin Blvd 372
 www.caya.aw
 reservations@caya.aw

Beautiful areas around Aruba



(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge
Here in Aruba we have

three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. To reach this beauty you must go to San

Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the coastline and good luck going down the cliff.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □



“Aruba to me is a love light shining bright”



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Meli'sa Morgan from Corona Queens, New York She wrote to us saying: “I have returned again to

Beautiful ARUBA for another Blessed December 2025...My BIRTHDAY month! This is the best time for me to come to ARUBA. This year for the first time I was able to enjoy my time here with my Fiancé Robert S. Toy. When I tell you being together in ARUBA has made our Love Light shine Brighter than Ever! WOW! No words can describe the feeling of Love when you and your significant other are having dinner right on Eagle Beach and watching the clouds and sun just paint the Aruba sky with such artistic beauty. It is the most romantic and loving setting ever!! It made our love and connection to each other so much stronger. I am sure when we get married... Aruba will be a part of our wedding celebration. Thank you Aruba for being a part of my life for over 25 years. You keep my heart and love light shining so bright! I hope to have another 25 or more years here celebrating my birthday and love.” Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**WILDER
Wednesday**

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

**\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play**

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.
Play up to five times each Wednesday.

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Tracy Bohrer from Muskego, Wisconsin, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba is "One happy island".
- The safety of the island.
- Aruba's people and culture.
- Aruba's beautiful beaches.
- Aruba's weather.



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our

sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode 334 - CCCXXXIV

From Oil to Heritage: Aruba's Journey Through Time

Etnia Nativa celebrates the island's native ethnicity—linking our ancestral roots to survival knowledge, herbal wisdom, practical know-how, the ability to navigate by reading the stars, and the skill to predict the weather. These are the ways of our elders, passed down from their elders through unfathomable generations. Aruba's identity is deeply rooted in this ancestral heritage.

In this episode, Etnia Nativa explores the era following the Aruba oil refinery.

In the mid-20th century, Aruba's economy underwent a profound transformation. The Lago Aruba Refinery, once one of the world's largest oil refineries, automated its operations, drastically reducing the demand for manual labor. This shift led to mass layoffs and a growing unemployment crisis, leaving the island's community in uncertainty. For an economy long reliant on the refinery, finding an alternative foundation became a pressing necessity.

To address this crisis, the Aruban administration launched a strategic initiative to develop Caribbean tourism—a move that would redefine the island's economic landscape. Central to this plan was attracting cruise ships to Aruba's shores.

On February 1, 1955, this vision took its first major step when the Trade Wind, the island's first cruise ship, docked in Oranjestad Paardenbaai (Horses' Bay). The arrival marked the beginning of a new economic era.

The event was celebrated widely: local girls in specially designed gowns welcomed the visitors, and the entire population seemed to converge at the harbor to witness this historic moment.

From that day forward, Aruba's relationship with tourism would never be the same. Luxury liners, previously docking only for freight purposes, began arriving regularly, bringing a new wave of international visitors. By 1956, Aruba had welcomed 3,002 foreign tourists, and by 1960, that number had surged to 13,125—a more than fourfold increase in just four years. This influx fueled a growing demand for accommodations and infrastructure to support the emerging industry.

As tourism expanded, so did the need for hotels. Local entrepreneur Ch. J. Neme, who had opened the Strand Hotel in 1957, capitalized on the opportunity by launching the Hotel Basi Ruti in 1958 on the picturesque Palm Beach. This establishment helped meet the growing needs of visitors and marked an early milestone in

Aruba's hospitality development.

Perhaps the most significant turning point in Aruba's tourism history came with the construction of the Aruba Caribbean Hotel and Casino. Opened in July 1958 at a cost of 8 million Antillean guilders, the high-rise hotel quickly became an iconic symbol of the island's shift toward luxury tourism. It attracted wealthy visitors from around the world, cementing Aruba's status as an emerging international destination.

To finance the hotel's construction, the Aruven Company Inc. was established, with the island as the primary shareholder. Additionally, the Venaruba Company Inc. was set up in Venezuela to raise funds. This ambitious project, along with the construction of a new boulevard connecting Palm Beach to Oranjestad and the island's airport, played a crucial role in reshaping Aruba's tourism infrastructure. The once-isolated Palm Beach area became easily accessible, paving the way for future development. With tourism firmly entrenched as the island's primary industry, Aruba entered a new era of economic growth and social transformation. The shift away from an oil-dependent economy was not only about generating wealth—it was about reimagining Aruba's economy and fostering connections with the international community.

While the island's pristine beaches and luxury resorts remain major attractions, more travelers today seek to understand Aruba's history and cultural evolution, appreciating both its natural beauty and the resilience that led to its prosperity. □

For those eager to uncover Aruba's past, Etnia Nativa offers guided cultural experiences that explore the island's roots, natural environment, and evolving traditions. Whether you are visiting for the first time or returning to rediscover its charms, this unique experience Etnia Nativa provides is a meaningful connection to the island's rich history.

Step beyond the beaches and resorts to engage with the heart and soul of Aruba's heritage visit Etnia Nativa, by appointment only:
Whats App +297 592 2702
etnianaativa03@gmail.com



Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.



By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.



CROSSWORD

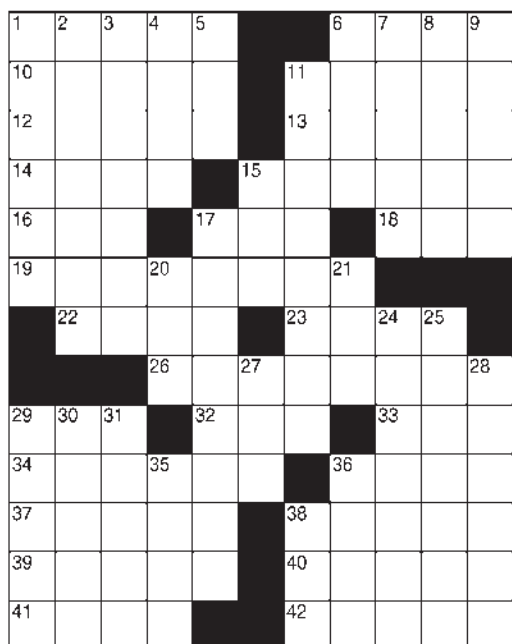
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 41 Hector's home
1 Mob bosses
6 Pop star
10 Not out
11 Hag
12 Said with a twang
13 Washer cycle
14 Prentious
15 Raw bar item
16 Cardinal color
17 In addition
18 Pig's place
19 Fresh-faced
22 Phobia
23 New Mexico art colony
26 Difficult word
29 — Jacinto
32 Ring win
33 G-man's org.
34 Dream up
36 Tag info
37 Some messages
38 Shows nervousness
39 — Dame
40 Madrid month

DOWN

- 1 Yellow bird
2 Not oblivious to
3 Bill stamp
4 Acceptable
5 Salt, to Simone
6 Crocus cousin
7 Forbidden acts
8 Start member
9 Suspicious
11 Beckon from afar
15 Punch-in-the-gut sound
17 Engine valve
20 Scot's cap
21 — -di-dah
24 Force under
25 Very cold
27 Luau strings
28 Rests atop
29 Fragrance
30 Knight wear
31 "Swell!"
35 Light
36 Went under
38 Pod bit



12-27

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

PXW'Z FR HKIHMP ZX VZHIZ
XBRI HQHMW. ZGMV ZMER,
LXD'IR WXZ VZHIZMWQ KIXE
VOIHZOG; LXD'IR VZHIZMWQ
KIXE RAURIMRWOR.
— DWJWXTW

Cryptoquote: KWANZAA IS A
SPECIAL TIME TO REMEMBER THE ANCESTORS,
THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AND THE LEADERS.
— DOROTHY WINBUSH RILEY

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 12 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	12	CRYSTAL SERENITY NORWEGIAN PEARL	08.00 08.00	18.00 20.00	B C	1 1
SUN	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CARIBBEAN PRINCESS FREEWINDS - Dept.	07.00 09.00 ****	16.00 22.00 22.30	B C E	1 1 -
TUE	16	NORWEGIAN EPIC MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00 08.00	17.00 20.00	B C	1 1
WED	17	SILVER SHADOW SERENADE OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 07.00 06.00	14.00 23.00 16.00 ****	B C I E	1 1 1 1
THU	18	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE VOLENDAM AIDASOL	08.00 08.00 08.00	20.00 17.00 18.00	C B I	1 1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

12/17

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	2	7	5	8	6	4	3
5	6	4	2	9	3	1	8	7
8	3	7	4	1	6	9	5	2
1	9	8	5	2	7	3	6	4
4	2	3	8	6	1	5	7	9
6	7	5	9	3	4	2	1	8
2	4	6	3	7	5	8	9	1
3	8	1	6	4	9	7	2	5
7	5	9	1	8	2	4	3	6

Difficulty: ★★

12/16

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Donna Summer performs at the Nobel Peace concert in Oslo, Norway on Dec. 11, 2009.

Associated Press

The Queen of Disco: Donna Summer is posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There are giants, and then there is Donna Summer. The Queen of Disco and then some, known for such timeless tunes as "Love to Love You Baby," "I Feel Love," "Bad Girls," "Dim All the Lights," "On the Radio" and "She Works Hard for the Money," has been posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the hall said.

Summer, who died in 2012 at age 63, was welcomed into the Songwriters Hall on Monday at a ceremony at The Butterfly Room at Cecconi's in Los Angeles. It was led by Academy Award-winning songwriter Paul Williams. Summer's husband, Bruce Sudano and their daughters Brooklyn Sudano and Amanda Sudano Ramirez were in attendance.

"Donna Summer is not only one of the defining voices and performers of the 20th century; she is one of the great songwriters of all time who changed the course of music," said Williams in a statement. "She wrote timeless and transcendent songs that continue to captivate our souls and imaginations, inspiring the world to dance and, above all, feel love."

Summer's smooth blend of R&B, soul, pop, funk, rock, disco and electronica launched numerous chart-topping hits in the '70s and '80s as well as three multiplatinum albums. □

CLASSIFIEDS

Le Vent

Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath
3 rd floor ocean view
Price :\$1,300,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Appartments Complex

Under construction
Monserrat Noord
5 min walk to palm beach
2x 2 BR 1 bath and 3x 1 BR 1 bath
602 m2 commercial land
Price turn key :\$1,000,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Beach

Commercial land to build
12 office spaces (Map approved)
6 ground floor 6 1st floor
2630,92 m2 (53,820 sq feet)
Price :\$750,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For Sale

San Fuego near Natural Park
3 BR 3 Bath with 1 restroom
Pool on a property land 4136 m2
Price :\$1,300,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For Sale

Washington Noord
5 min drive to palm / eagle beach
3 BR 3 bath with 2 apartment
With pool
Price :\$700,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

219927

Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
Penthouse 2 BR WK # 1 room # 672
21 weeks remaining
Price :\$40,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 Bath ocean view
Sleep 12
Price :\$ 25,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private islands
Christmas week
1 BR WK 51 room # 2136
Ground floor garden view
Price :\$14,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle beach
1 BR Room # 2258
week 50
21 weeks remaining
Price :\$10,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
1 BR week 52 room # 3308
16 weeks remaining \$10,000
1 BR week 01 room # 3208
9 weeks remaining \$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Time - share owners

Are you interested in sell
Your Time - share in Aruba
Call the expert
40 years doing business
Free appraisal and advertisement
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
Gold season
2 Bedroom Garden view
Sleep 8
Price :\$ 12,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio week # 1 room # 8201
19 weeks remaining
Price :\$9000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

ARUBA
TODAY

BONDIA
ARUBA

How to reach us!

Downtown

High Rise Hotels
Bus Terminal
Weststraat
Schepstraat
Royal Plaza Mall
L.G. Smith Boulevard
Caya G.F. Betico Cross
Caya G.F.



FIND US ON
**ARUBA
TODAY**
www.arubatoday.com
ALSO AVAILABLE ON
Instagram X

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Phil and Penny Knight's donation tops the Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of 2025's biggest gifts

By MARIA DI MENTO of The Chronicle of Philanthropy

The Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual list of the biggest charitable donations from individuals or their foundations totaled \$5 billion in 2025. Topping the list was \$2 billion from Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife, Penny, followed by a \$746.7 million donation from Warren Buffett and a \$500 million pledge from the mother and stepfather of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

Nearly 40% of the \$5 billion total came from the Knights' gift to Oregon Health & Science University. More than \$1.3 billion, or about one-quarter of the total, came from four donations to Buffett family foundations.

The top three gifts went toward cancer care and research, a private grantmaker, and an international effort to fight hunger and malnutrition among wom-



Phil Knight, right, and Penny Knight, watch the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the Phil Knight Invitational tournament in Portland, Ore., Nov. 26, 2017.

Associated Press

en and children. Two donations totaling \$600 million went to university athletics programs. One gift of \$300 million backed the construction of a new hospital and an effort to expand the health care workforce in South Dakota. Another gift of about \$200 million went to an art museum for an expansion project.

Five of the donors are multibillionaires and their combined net worth is roughly \$190 billion.

Support for cancer research

Phil Knight, whose net worth Forbes pegs at more than \$31 billion, and his wife, Penny, gave their \$2 billion donation in August to Oregon Health & Science University to expand clinical trials and basic cancer research at the Knight Cancer Institute and bolster a range of support services for cancer patients and their families, including psychological, genetic, and financial counseling, nutritional care, and survivorship support, among other offerings.

Their gift was the result of a long relationship between OHSU professor Brian Druker, one of the country's

most celebrated cancer researchers, and the Knights, which began nearly two decades ago. Impressed with Druker's work, the couple gave OHSU three nine-figure donations before this year's windfall, starting with their \$100 million naming gift in 2008. They have given Oregon Health & Science a total of at least \$2.7 billion over the years.

Buffett supports family foundation

The Knights' donation is followed by a gift from the legendary investor Warren Buffett, who gave 1.5 million shares of Berkshire Hathaway stock valued at \$746.7 million in November to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, named for his late first wife, who died in 2004.

Buffett, whose net worth is estimated by Forbes at more than \$146 billion, created the grantmaker in 1964 to manage the family's charitable giving, and it remains a family affair. Two of his three children serve on its board, and it is led by his former son-in-law. The foundation primarily backs women's reproductive health. It also provides college scholarships for stu-

dents in Nebraska, where the family is from.

The donation, along with three other Buffett contributions on the list, is a special gift that Buffett announced in November rather than one of the annual contributions he makes to the foundation and several other grantmakers, which are payments toward multibillion-dollar pledges he announced in 2006.

A pledge to UNICEF

Following the Knights' and Buffett's gifts is a donation from two lesser-known philanthropists, the late Jackie Bezos and her husband, Mike, the mother and stepfather of billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The couple invested \$245,000 in Amazon when Jeff Bezos launched the company in 1995, and while their net worth is unknown, it is likely considerable.

The couple pledged \$500 million to UNICEF USA to back its Child Nutrition Fund and to match gifts from other donors for the effort. The fund aims to increase access to healthy, nutritious food for children and women in need around the world.

They announced the

pledge several months before Jackie Bezos died in August at age 78. A longtime supporter of education programs, Jackie Bezos established the Bezos Scholars Program, the Aspen Challenge, and Students Rebuild, all of which are education programs for various age groups. She also led the Bezos Family Foundation, which she and her husband launched in 2000.

Mike Bezos spent 32 years working as an engineer and manager with the oil and gas giant Exxon Mobil before devoting his time to the family's philanthropy.

Dells' \$6 billion pledge

Missing from the list is a \$6.25 billion pledge Michael and Susan Dell announced in December to put \$250 into investment accounts for 25 million American children under 10 who live in ZIP codes where the annual median family income is \$150,000 or less. The gift isn't included on the list because it is not clear the money will be given to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Dan Stasiewski, a Dell Foundation spokesman, told the Chronicle that the details are still being hashed out but that the money "will go to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to be distributed to individual accounts securely and accurately." He said the Dells plan to give the money through various giving vehicles but declined to specify which ones.

The Chronicle's annual rankings are based on the biggest publicly announced gifts. The tally does not include contributions of artwork or gifts from anonymous donors. In March, the Chronicle will unveil the Philanthropy 50, its annual ranking of the 50 biggest donors, a list based on philanthropists' total contributions in 2025 rather than individual gifts. To learn about other big donations, see its database of gifts of \$1 million or more, which is updated regularly. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews



QUALITY APARTMENTS
AND SUITES



www.arubaqualityapartments.com

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.
Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697

+1 866 470 1411
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 593 9647
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

From grandpa to gridiron: Philip Rivers' inspiring NFL return



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Philip Rivers (17) throws during the second half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, in Seattle.

Associated Press

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

The "Gridiron Grandpa" thrilled both young and old alike with his return to the NFL 1,800 days after last throwing a touchdown pass.

Philip Rivers nearly helped the injury-riddled Colts (8-6)

pull off the upset at Seattle, completing 18 of 27 passes for 120 yards and a touchdown with one sack and an interception in an 18-16 loss to the 11-win Seahawks.

"I was just thankful grateful that I was out there," said Rivers, whose pick came on his final pass as he tried

to force the ball down the field in the closing seconds. "And it was a blast it was a blast but obviously the emotions now are disappointment. This isn't about me. We have a team scrapping like crazy to try and stay alive and get into the postseason."

For much of the NFL, it was all about Rivers, who admitted he wasn't even sure how he'd play coming out of retirement as a Pro Football Hall of Fame semifinalist.

"There is doubt, and it's real," Rivers said. "The guaranteed safe bet is to go home or to not go for it, and the other one is, 'Shoot, let's see what happens.' I hope in that sense that can be a positive to some young boys, or young people."

The high school team that Rivers coaches in his native Alabama, the St. Michael Catholic Cardinals, who finished 13-1 this season, gathered at a local restaurant in Fairhope for a watch party and went wild when Rivers threw a touchdown pass to Josh Downs that put Indianapolis ahead 13-3.

And you can bet plenty of gray-haired football fans were just as thrilled as those teen-agers to see "Old Man Rivers" slinging it again and joining other sports greats who returned from retirement with less hair or more gray, including the likes of

Michael Jordan, George Foreman, Mario Lemieux and Magic Johnson.

Rivers definitely has a dad bod, and last week he couldn't even tell reporters what his weight was, only that it was certainly higher than when he walked away after the 2020 season.

For nearly five years, Rivers' seemingly final touchdown toss was caught by tight end Jack Doyle in Indy's 27-24 loss to the Buffalo Bills in an AFC wild-card game on Jan. 9, 2021.

The one he threw to Downs on Sunday was Rivers' 438th career touchdown toss, counting the playoffs, and few could have been more thrilling.

Rivers was the butt of plenty of old-man jokes and the subject of innumerable social media memes after the Colts called him out of retirement to try to salvage a once-promising season that's been sabotaged by injuries, including the one to starting quarterback Daniel Jones, whose stirring comeback season ended with a torn Achilles. □

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas among those owed six figures by bankrupt Grand Slam Track

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas, Melissa Jefferson-Wooden and four other Olympic medalists are among those owed six-figure sums by Grand Slam Track, the racing league that filed for bankruptcy earlier this month.

The league resubmitted forms Monday for its Chapter 11 bankruptcy, one of which was a required list of its top 20 creditors. McLaughlin-Levrone, the four-time Olympic champion and world-record holder in the 400-meter hurdles, was owed the fifth most on the list: \$365,250.

Others included Kenny Bednarek, Josh Kerr, Marileidy Paulino and Alison Dos Santos. Dos Santos and Jefferson-Wooden were each owed \$190,625. The rest were

owed between \$211,000 and \$250,000.

Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson formed the league by signing athletes who received salaries and appearance fees to compete on the four-event circuit. They also competed for prize money at each race and in a season-long series that was cut short when Grand Slam Track abruptly called off its final event, set for Los Angeles in June. The organization also amended its estimated assets to between \$1 million and \$10 million instead of less than \$50,000, which is what it said in the original filing. It said it owed between \$10 million and \$50 million to between 200 and 999 creditors, with the largest sum, \$3.036 million, due to Momentum-CHP Partnership, a joint venture created for the league's TV productions. □



Gabby Thomas competes in the women's 200-meter semifinals during the U.S. Championships athletics meet in Eugene, Ore., Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025.

Associated Press



ARUBA

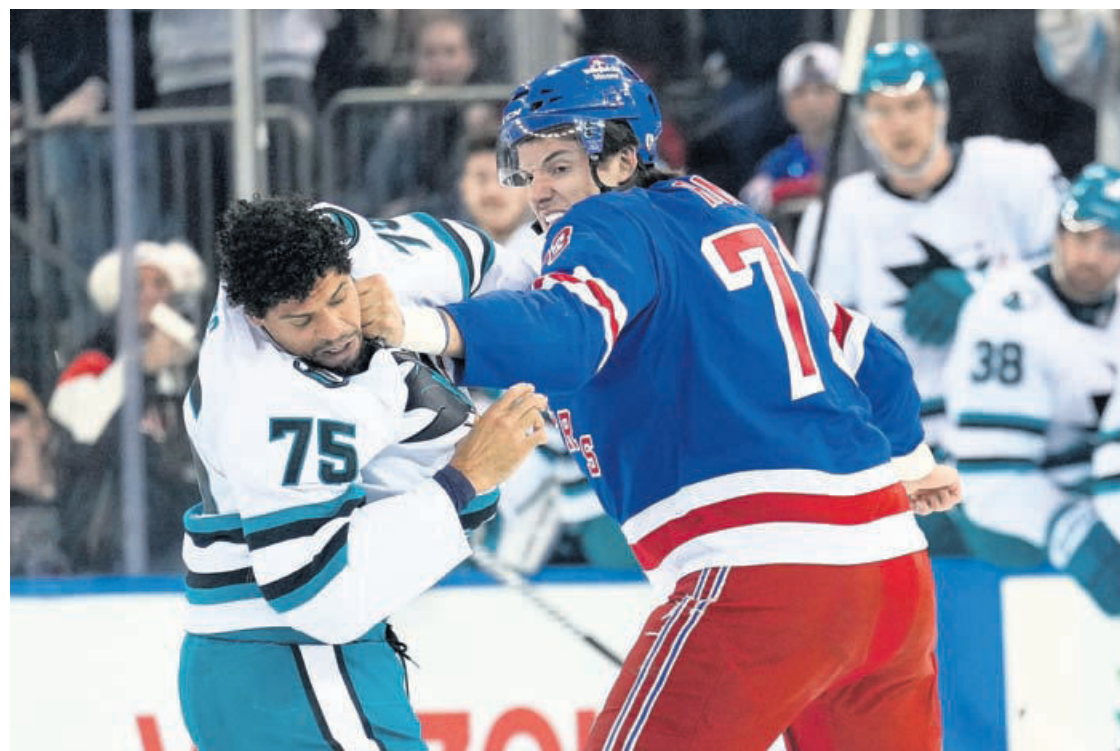
Beach Club Resort

Discover Aruba Beach Club, a family-friendly resort right on Aruba's white-sand beach.

At Aruba Beach Club, your family can enjoy comfort, community, and affordability with timeshares that last for generations.

Choose from 3 spacious unit types, enjoy affordable ownership, and secure your vacation spot in paradise for life.

For more information, visit our website arubabeachresort.com or contact our sales team today!



New York Rangers' Matt Rempe, right, fights with San Jose Sharks' Ryan Reaves (75) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in New York, Oct. 23, 2025.

Associated Press

Back from injury, Rangers' Matt Rempe says he won't be deterred from dropping gloves

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Rempe kept jabbing away at Ryan Reaves not knowing his left thumb had already broken from getting tangled up in his combatant's jersey during their heavyweight fight.

"I just kept going bang, bang, bang, and I guess I was just kind of breaking it and breaking it," Rempe said. "But when you're in a fight, you don't feel anything, so you had no idea." After he and Reaves told each other, "Good fight," in the penalty boxes, Rempe looked down and realized something was very wrong. "I was like, 'Oh my God, this thing's not right,'" he recalled.

That was Oct. 23, and Rempe finally returned to the New York Rangers' lineup Monday night after missing the past 24 games. With his team struggling, coach

Mike Sullivan is glad to have the imposing 6-foot-9 winger back on the ice

"When he's in the lineup, he makes an impact," Sullivan said. "He creates anxiety for our opponents. That's an area where I think he can help us. He gets in on the forecheck, he leans on people, he goes to the net front, he makes it hard on people. He makes an impact on the game with the way he plays."

Rempe is just glad he can make an impact again. The injury occurred the day before he was supposed to fly to his hometown of Calgary, which was a downer for the 22-year-old respected teammate and fan favorite.

Knocking on the side of his wooden locker, Rempe pointed out that he has been in over a dozen fights in the NHL and nearly 50 in his life and never got hurt. "That was bound to hap-

pen eventually, and it's a part of the game," Rempe said. "Just a couple months. The season's long. It happens."

Rempe is a throwback kind of enforcer in hockey, which has seen fighting decrease substantially over the past couple of decades.

He does not plan to let a broken thumb deter him from dropping the gloves moving forward.

"Not at all," Rempe said, acknowledging he's on the no-fight list for the time being. "I can't for a little while because I can't really bend it correctly yet. A couple more weeks and it'll be golden, but I can't for a little bit, which sucks, but it's all right because you just go play hockey and stuff." Anaheim's Ross Johnston asked Rempe to fight in his return, but the circumstances made that not doable. □

The men's tennis tour is adding a heat rule like the one the women have had for more than 30 years



Novak Djokovic of Serbia cools himself with water during the men's singles semifinal match with Valentin Vacherot of Monaco, at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center, in Shanghai, China, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025.

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

The ATP Tour is adding a rule to address extreme heat during men's professional tennis matches that will allow for 10-minute breaks during best-of-three-sets singles matches starting next season and is similar to what was put in place on the women's circuit more than 30 years ago.

The ATP Board's approval of the new policy, announced Monday, strengthens "protections for players competing in extreme conditions," the tour said.

During the Shanghai Masters in October, some players called for the ATP to introduce guidance to help them in cases of extreme heat and humidity. Defending champion Jannik Sinner stopped playing a match there because of severe leg cramps; 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic lamented the conditions after vomiting during a victory.

"It's brutal when you have over 80% humidity day after day," Djokovic said then, "particularly for the guys when they're playing during the day with heat, with sun." An Associated Press analysis in 2023 showed that the average high temperatures felt during the U.S. Open and the three other major tennis tournaments steadily had gotten higher and more dangerous in recent decades, reflecting the climate change that has created record heat waves.

The WTA first established a rule to protect players in the heat in 1992. The new ATP rule is based on the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), which takes into account the heat, humidity and other factors. When the WBGT reaches at least 30.1 degrees Celsius (about 86.2 Fahrenheit) in one of the opening two sets of a best-of-three match, either player is allowed to request a 10-minute suspension of play. □